Alleged contracts in recruiting labourers to Assam and Bengal Tea estates from the Agency tracts.

* 1445-B Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the existence of a 'civil contract' in Assam and Bengal Tea estates by which the system of labour recruitments is perpetually kept on by means of annual contracts;

(b) what the conditions of those contracts are;

(c) the Act or the rules under which recruitment for the Tea gardens of Dooars, Terai, Tipperah, Darjeeling and Chittagong are made; and

(d) the number of absconders (labourers) that have been reported in each of the years 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928, from the Tea districts of Assam and those of Bengal separately?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) There is no labour contract in regard to recruitment to the labour districts in Assam. The Government have no information regarding the Tea estates in Bengal, recruitment to which is not controlled by any law.

(d) The Government have no information.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"The reply given to clauses (a), (b) and (c) is 'there is no labour contract'. May I know whether the Government are aware there is such a thing called 'Civil contract'?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member must take another opportunity for giving his information."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Now, on the basis of the information I have now given, may I ask whether the Government would enquire into the existence of a 'Civil contract' in Assam and Bengal Tea estates?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED:—"Will the Government seek to make any difference between civil contract and labour contract?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know whether, in view of the fact that recruitment to various tea estates is admitted by the Government, there is any law which governs it and whether the Government have any intention of bringing such recruitment under control?"

Newspapers

Newspapers publishing Government advertisements.

1446 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the names of the newspapers to which Government advertisements were given in each of the years from 1920 to 1927; and

(b) whether such advertisements are given without any distinction either political or otherwise?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) Yes.